Clinical Innovation

Riding Pontic Rein

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ABSTRACT

This article describes a method of stabilizing the riding pontic used in cases of missing teeth using a stainless steel wire bonded on the lingual surfaces of the teeth. The method used provides additional benefit in the early stage of treatment as it enables us to place the riding pontic in round wires itself. It also provides additional stability and prevents rotation.

KEYWORDS: *Riding pontic, stabilizing wires, stainless steel wires*

Riding pontics are utilized to enhance the esthetics of the patient in case of missing anterior teeth.[1-3] However, they can have numerous problems such as rotation around the archwire, need to place rectangular

Figure 1: Stainless steel wires adapted to the arch form

Figure 3: Stabilizing wires bonded, frontal view

Figure 2: Missing central incisors

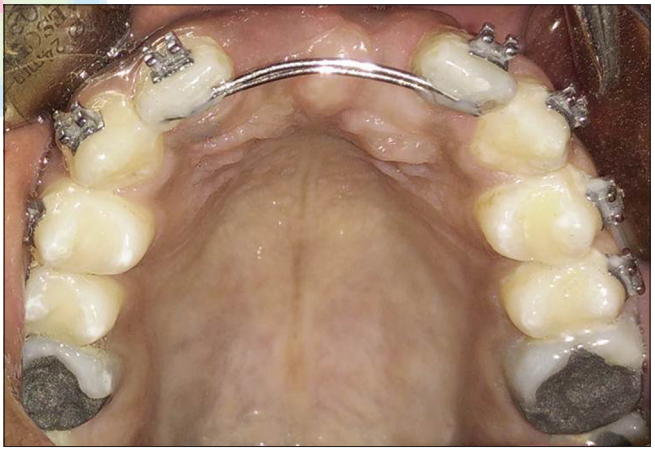

Figure 4: Stabilizing wires bonded, occlusal view

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archwires before placing the riding pontic, and swallowing of pontic if it becomes loose.

A simple solution to avoid the rotation of the pontic would be to place two 0.07-inch stainless steel wires, one below and the other along the permanent retainer connecting the two abutment teeth [Figure 1]. A single stabilizing wire would not be of much use as it would act as a fulcrum for the riding pontic to rotate around the archwire [Figure 2]. Two wires would provide adequate stability and additionally prevent collapse of edentulous space. Any flowable composite can be used as adhesive to bond the wires [Figures 3 and 4]. The wire has to be contoured according to the arch form.

The appropriate number of riding pontics is selected based on the size, shape, and color of the adjacent teeth.[2] The pontics with the bonded bracket are kept in close contact with the stabilizing wire and ligated to the stainless steel archwire [Figure 5].

Figure 5: Stabilized riding pontics ligated to the archwire

This stabilizing wire provides additional benefit in the early stage of treatment as it enables us to place the riding pontic in round wires itself but only after the anchor teeth have been aligned. This would be of great psychological benefit to the patient making this riding pontic upgraded in comparison to the older pontic designs.

If there are any spaces to be closed distal to the pontic, retraction can be done using conventional J hook and tiebacks. However, if spaces are present between the pontic and adjacent permanent teeth, the stabilizing wires can be removed once stiffer stainless steel archwires have been placed and space closed using tiebacks or elastomeric chains.

The stabilizing wires can be removed after orthodontic treatment followed by oral rehabilitation to restore the function and esthetics of the patient.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

References

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